

BP SPIRIT

Electronic News for the 21st Century South African Scout

I got SPIRIT - How 'bout YOU

We've all heard it at school sport events, "we got spirit, yes we do, we got spirit, how 'bout you" and I have always thought this might have been custom made for scouting. BP spirit is what got this great organisation going in the first place and it up to us to keep that spirit going so it will be passed on to those who follow us.

This is the first edition of the new South African Scouting newsletter, an electronic publication, which will drag you all, kicking, and screaming into the 21st century. It's a plain and simple newsletter to make it easy to e-mail and fax and we hope you will make copies to give to your groups whilst encouraging them to send me contributions.

We are a bit thin on content at the moment but I am hoping that, as the months progress this will change and contributions from YOU will fill up the pages. Send me your up coming events, your successful programmes, funny things that have happened or that the Scouts and Cubs have said. Send us your web site details, and details of other useful websites.

My e-mail address is

hazel@scouting.org.za and my snail mail address is

Suite 106, Private bag X82329,
Rustenburg 0299.

We could fill this newsletter with articles from overseas scouting magazines but it would be so much better if we could make it a real South African publication.

Oh, by the way, my name is Hazel Smith, I have been involved in scouting for 14 years first as a committee member with 1st Rustenburg, then as an APS and finally as Akela. Both my sons were scouts and it had a definite and very positive effect on the way they have grown up. I am no longer involved with the pack but am still very passionate about Scouting. Come on guys, show your true spirit and help me to fill these pages.



SANJAMB

Dr Angus Hay is the camp Chief for Sanjamb 2001 which is to be held at the Vaal Dam in Gauteng from 10 to 19 December. He is looking for camp staff to fill the roles of TL's and ATL's plus support service staff in medical, fire, transport, catering, stores, security and general duties departments. Activity base leaders are also required. Contact him at sanjamb@scouting.org.za, or telephone 011-339-2711. Take a look also at the SANJAMB website <http://sanjamb.scouting.org.za> - great fun and enjoyment is guaranteed.

Scout Programme - do you know what's happening?

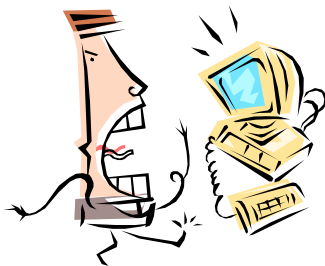
New Scout Programme workshops are being held in all our areas and it is important that you attend them.

The revised scout advancement programme has been designed as a progressive system that will teach scouting skills which have been neglected recently and to develop other skills - important in this new world.

Get hold of your training team and find out when and where workshops are being held and make sure you are ready to implement the programme when the time comes.

WHY SCOUTS AND THE INTERNET?

What do Scouts, Cubs, Scouters, parents and visitors do more than 50000 times every month? No, the answer isn't "tie a reef knot" or "fill in another form for HQ". The answer is "visit one of the web pages on ScoutWeb South Africa".



Scouting is about educating young people, with an emphasis on the outdoors, so is the internet relevant to Scouting? But as our web site statistics show, the answer to this question is already irrelevant: Scouts are on the internet whether we like it or not, and

the question is how we can use the Internet to benefit Scouting.

The internet brings one immediate benefit: internal communication. In South Africa we already have about one thousand members on five Area mailing lists, which means we can use email to communicate quickly and efficiently between Scouters, Scouts, HQ, parents and non-members. The lists are open to



all, and you can join at

www.scouting.org.za/signup.html.

A second benefit is to give Scouting a true international flavour. Need information about a recipe from Uganda? The Korean flag?

Underground Scouting in Eastern Europe during the Cold War? The words to your favourite campfire song?

A Scout cartoon for a newsletter? What better resource than the web. You can

also be more imaginative and interactive: what about making contact with a Scout group in Colombia to work together on an environmental project?

Or inviting Scouts from other countries to visit your troop during their stay in South Africa? My group (1st Claremont) has already had visitors from USA, England, Ireland, Denmark, Switzerland and Germany, all through the internet - we even had a Danish and American ATS go into uniform for a year.

To get you started on the Scout internet experience, here are three links which all Scouts should know about:

* ScoutWeb South Africa, your starting point for information about Scouting in South Africa: www.scouting.org.za

* World Organization of the Scout Movement, the official Scout home page: www.scout.org

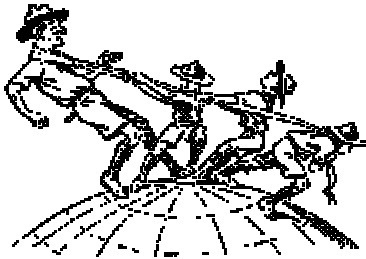
* ScoutBase UK, quite simply the biggest and best Scout web site out there: www.scoutbase.org.uk
There are plenty more and we'll bring you a new choice in each issue of BP Spirit

Ian Webb

Webmaster,

ScoutWeb South Africa

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Hogwarts Camp

Well – we've read the books and we are all waiting to see the film but the 1st Randburg Cubs were lucky enough to get a taste of life at Hogwarts School recently.

Straight after the flag raising each cub sat down on the sorting stool and the sorting hat told them which six they were in.

Once the Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Slytherin and Ravenclaw sixes had sorted their tents out the fun began in earnest.

Apart from the usual fun camp activities the cubs were introduced to Muggle quiddich which turned out to be really great fun especially when Akela Sherley

Southworth, alias Professor



Dumbledore, fell in the dam whilst retrieving a bludger.

The Hogwarts banquet was wonderful, cobwebs were festooned all over the dining area and the pumpkins lovingly carved out by the cubs themselves looked wonderful all lit up. At the campfire later that evening, the Hogwarts School song was sung. The trick there is that everyone sings it to their own tune, it sounded surprisingly good.

All in all a great time was had by all and everyone went home with their very own Quiddich broomstick.

Sabagani – The Tour

Uwe Bothur, a Scouter from Bonn, who co-ordinates activities between Germany and South Africa sent us this article from their latest newsletter:

After a long year of planning we finally could say Herzlich Willkommen to our guests from KwaZulu/Natal. For the first time 38 Scouters and Commissioners from KZN came over to Europe, not only to experience our culture and Scouting, but also to perform as a choir. Traditional Zulu songs and religious hymns from the province of a thousand hills were brought over by the group. The tour started after a day in Cologne at the scouting HQ in Brunnen (near Cloppenburg), with an overwhelming reception from the local Church choir who hosted us. Even though many did not speak English, communication was

not a problem. Visits to a farm, school and a museum village gave our visitors quite an intense inside view of the area. The second day found its first highlight in a barn party and German 'Braai'. Songs from Germany and South Africa alternated and music was the language of the night. The following day saw the first full show in Europe the audience of 250 filled the overcrowded hall and, standing on the tables they insisted on two encores before they let the choir off the stage. The tour went on to Hanover, Gelsenkirchen, Bocholt, Cologne and Dusseldorf and included a performance at the Jamb de Cologne, a jamboree for



3000 Scouts where the KZN team held workshops. The whole trip was filled with new ideas and we look forward to finding out one day what German voices sound like in the land of a thousand hills.

Have you SCENE it?

In July, Mafikeng SCENE are hosting the SCENE Kgotla. They are looking for 100 participants from around South Africa, Patrol Leaders, active Rovers and Scouters under 25 years of age to come and work out what the SASA should be doing and how they should be doing it. There are only three days to complete this mammoth task – 2nd July to 4th July so if you feel you are up to it contact them. The cost per person is R60.00 per day.

Scene@scouting.org.za

Tel.018-381-7439

Fax.018-381-7726

Be part of the Scouting SCENE!

REMEMBER THIS

80 YEARS AGO:

- The first World Scout Jamboree was held at Olympia in London with 8000 participants.
- Robert Baden-Powell was proclaimed Chief Scout of the World.
- The first International Scout Conference of national leaders was held in London.
- The Boy Scouts International Bureau was opened in London.

Taking a good look at Scouting in 21st century South Africa

Scouting has been going strong in South Africa for 92 years but, whilst the values and principles of Scouting have not changed, the world that we live in has, quite dramatically.

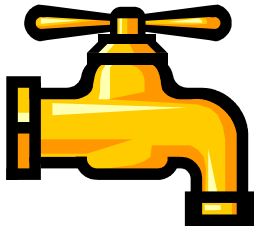
In order for the movement to grow and meet the demands of the modern Scout we have to be adaptable and we need to review our work regularly.

A year ago the National Council of the South African Scout Association decided it was time for a complete 'strategic review' of Scouting in South Africa. The review committee, led by our assistant Chief Scout 'Idonsa' Dlamini, has obtained the services of an outside facilitator and the review process should be completed by the end of June this year.

The review facilitator Mr. B Ngeleza of KNC Associates wants to hear from YOU too. If you have any ideas for SA Scouting in the future, things you feel need to be looked at, suggestions or proposals, please contact him at bngeleza@global.co.za or write

to him at PO Box 31862 Braamfontein 2001.

This is your opportunity to shape the future of South African Scouting, don't miss it.



Taps

Well this is it, the first edition of BP Spirit. It is a work in progress and definitely needs YOUR help to give it some real ZING!

Let me know what you want to read about, what you want to see in the newsletter. Send me things to put in.

The whole idea of a newsletter is to keep you informed. Did you know that a choir from KZN had visited Europe? Did you know about the Strategic Review? I certainly didn't before I was sent the articles. I am certain that many groups out there are doing exciting things that we would all like to know about.

Perhaps it will inspire other groups to do similar things.

Back in BP's day, they didn't have e-mail and the internet but, despite the difficulties in communicating ideas, Scouting became a World wide organisation. How much easier it is for us then to create a network of like minded, enthusiastic Scouters, willing to share ideas and thoughts.

BP would have bombarded my e-mail with ideas and articles, I just know he would - so what is stopping YOU?

Taps. I hope, will be an opportunity for everyone to have the final say. I get it this time, who wants it for the next

edition, say anything, tell us about anything. Put your feelings about Scouting into words and have the final say in this newsletter.

I'd like to make this a monthly newsletter eventually, but that depends on you. Meanwhile the deadline for the next edition is

Monday 26 March.

